2021

FEBRUARY ISSUE

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THE LIONS' PRIDE
MEDIA GROUP

MORE THAN A MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Annually, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History selects a theme for Black History Month in the United States. This year's theme was The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity.

THE HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Damion Drackett
Contributing Writer

The color of our skin is more than a thick layer, it starts developing from within, building and impacting all lives that it touches. Every February, many countries across the world celebrate Black History Month. It brings up the discussion of what it means to be Black, and the specificities of celebrating Black History Month.

In 1926, Black History Month stemmed from an organization, created by Carter G. Woodson, that promoted Black life and the historical attributes that come with it. This was then transformed into something bigger, and eventually was nationally recognized by President Gerald Ford in 1976 in the United States of America.

There were many historical events present in February of the 19th century, celebrating many aspects of Negro History. February was specifically chosen because it underlined the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12 and Frederick Douglas on Feb. 20.

These specific dates were used as celebration marks for enjoying the history of the Black community. This was then turned into a one-month celebration, as people saw the need for it to be celebrated more because of how much the Black community contributed to the United States of America.

Ashley Butler, a Saint Leo student majoring in Political Science gave her views on Black History Month.

"Black history helps to create a certain environment and comfort for the Black community; it also creates an atmosphere of dedication and resilience in observing blacks as a people," said Butler.

Black History Month is more than just a month, it is an entity, a stamp and a trademark in society that allows for Black people to feel special and celebrated for all their contributions and hardship that they have endured over the years.

Black History Month is one that is celebrated in different ways here in the United States of America. People tend to retrace their family history, while others find celebration in helping or donating to different colored organizations and

The Universal Colors for Black History Month are black, which represents melanin, yellow, which represents prosperity, green, which represents mother nature, and red, which represents blood and the history of Black people

businesses. Many television networks showcase Black movie marathons.

In embracing the Black pride, it has become more important to the longevity of the society of the United States of America. Black History Month has even become more relevant as individuals, whether black, white, or mixed, are now celebrating and appreciating this historical celebration.

Barack Obama, former President of the U.S., once said, "African American culture has shaped American culture and we now see that it is being more accepted as it reminds people of where we are as a country and where we want to go."

These trademarks of Black History Month have made it clear to society that it has a purpose and that it deserves to be celebrated, just as much as the other historical events in the U.S.

With all the impact of Black History Month, there are still a few who question whether the month should be celebrated. The National Broadcasting Company News (NBC) mentioned that skepticism.

"20 percent of whites take ethnic classes and many parents have removed their child from participating in Black History Month related activities."

Ashliegh Ellis, a freshman studying Bio-Medical and Health Sciences, said, "Being Black is more than just a color; it is the period at every sentence and the beauty that overpowers all."

Jameelah Spence, a freshman studying Political Science, said, "Being Black is her knowing that she has to work hard for everything in life to feel rewarded; it means fighting strong battles throughout life and never giving up."

Black History month remains relevant because of its impacts on the lives of many Black people across the world. It has created so many opportunities and opened so many spaces for other colored people to grow and be a part of a community.

Carter G. Woodson created the Negro History Bulletin in 1937 and the Journal of Negro History in 1916 as a way of giving Black scholars a place to publish their research and findings.

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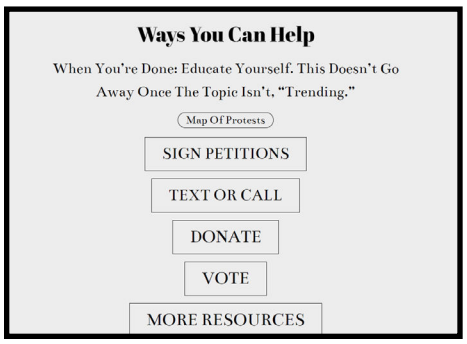
PROTESTS, PROGRESS, AND SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY'S

Emily Miller
Senior Copy Editor

The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, along with countless other Black people at the hands of U.S. police officers followed by the subsequent rise of the Black Lives Matter movement is evidence that the fight against systemic racism is far from over.

I cannot speak for the everyday life of African Americans, of Black people in the U.S., but I can learn about racism and the history it represents: listening to and reading the accounts of those who wish to educate the public on racism is necessary to understanding why this issue still needs to be addressed.

"The Civil Rights movement, as we know it, really grew out of a long history of social protests. It was a number of social inequities that were happening, not just in the South," said Dr. Ebony N. Perez, the Department



Generational connection hasn't been as strong as Perez wants. She wants us to listen to those who want to educate us with historical and personal knowledge. Unless someone offers, it's a good idea to educate yourself using online tools. Many carrds have been made to compile information on the Black experience.

Chair of Undergraduate Social Work at Saint Leo University.

Perez earned her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of South Florida. She primarily conducts research on curriculum development, social justice, and anti-racist pedagogy in undergraduate social work.

Historical education often only focuses on racism and the Civil Rights movement in the South, painting the North as more progressive. Perez explained that, although segregation and racism as a whole, was different in the North, it still very much existed. Racism and protesting didn't disappear after the end of the Civil Rights movement, either. The major events associated with the movement and protesting are no doubt monumental, but racism and protesting still exists within the cracks of our historical knowledge.

"The Civil Rights movement, as we think about it, was not just Dr. King going into Washington and giving his 'I Have A Dream' speech," said Perez. "Often times in schools, and probably a lot of what you heard starts and ends with Rosa Parks and 'I Have A Dream.'"

She emphasized that much of our historical knowledge, between slavery and Rosa Parks, is absent. Perez listed slave codes, slave patrols, and how they evolved over time. The slave patrols' function was to police enslaved persons who escaped.

"The people in slave patrols became soldiers, those soldiers then became members of, what we now would call, white supremacist groups such as the KKK," said Perez.

Those organizations became those keeping order, according to Perez. An NPR interview, "The History of Police in Creating Social Order in the U.S.," expands on this. Chenjerai Kumanyika, an associate professor of Journalism and Media at Rutgers University, explained that the police force evolved from labor control in both the North and South.

He stated, "in the South, that was controlling slaves. But in the North, that actually had to do with controlling any inconvenient population, especially labor. And so the institution of policing is very much connected to the enactment of violence against strikers and union-breaking."

Dr. Victor E. Kappeler of Eastern Kentucky University in "A Brief History of Slavery and the Origins of Modern Policing," exemplified these connections. The colonies enacted laws which criminalized and controlled enslaved people; Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which allowed the detention and return of escaped enslaved people.

"So often, Black and brown people have been saying 'cops have been stopping and frisking us for no reason' or 'we've been subjected to over-policing and police brutality in our neighborhoods,'" said Perez.

It isn't solely white supremacist groups and the police inciting racism, either.

"As a social worker and a person who has a healthy respect of history, we can see how racism has been baked into our country through the laws that we've produced and enforced, through the systems that we have set up: the way we structure our neighborhoods, the way we structure our schools," said Perez.

Redlining is a major part of this structure. Redlining is the refusal of a loan or insurance to someone who lives in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk which typically targets people of color. According to New York Times article, "How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering," "Redlined neighborhoods, which remain lower-income and more likely to have Black or Hispanic residents, consistently have far fewer trees and parks that help cool the air." In other words, those people suffer both financially and from hotter temperatures.

The U.S. does have laws aimed to fight against white supremacy and racism and has had themfor many years. But, as Perez explained, this doesn't fix everything.

"The laws, unfortunately, don't necessarily change behavior. And laws definitely don't change culture. People change culture," said Perez.

Thus, education and protesting come into play. Several times, Perez noted that social protests did not begin overnight, but were a result of long-term injustices and thus happened alongside these injustices. Perez noted that white people joined Black people in protesting, too.

"We don't talk as much about Black and white people joining together during the Freedom Rides and the Civil Rights movement," said Perez.

During the Freedom Rides in Birmingham, Alabama, a bus was stopped by eight white men who then boarded the bus.

"They savagely beat, with chains and sticks, the Freedom Riders who were there, non-violently; they were on the bus. They weren't out there with guns," Perez said.

The protests of the Civil Rights movement and protests today share similarities—with regard to both who was protesting, and who was against those protests.

Many young people were involved in Civil Rights protests; unfortunately, some white parents disowned their children because they attended protests, according to Perez. While it is possible that some white parents today did the same , it's less likely to happen now. The Civil Rights counter-movements of the '50s and '60s included white supremacist groups, the KKK, and various neo-Nazi groups.

"Those were the people attempting to stop progress," said Perez. "I don't think that's really changed […] It may look different, because we have different technology." She addressed the discomfort some may have surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement as well, noting the All Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter counter-movements.

"A Black child's life is just as important as a white child's life, as a Latino child's life; we are all equal," said Perez. "The discomfort with the phrase 'Black Lives Matter' is a temperature check and a reflection of the work we still have to do." Perez is cautiously optimistic.

"Trying to ignore the racialization of events didn't work. It's not going to work and it's not going to get us to a more community-oriented place," said Perez. In other words, it's important to address racism: even and especially when it makes us uncomfortable.

"I hope one of the differences between the two movements is that, as the Civil Rights movement marched on and then after the assassination of Dr. King, we did not keep progressing," said Perez.

"My hope and my prayer is that with these Black Lives Matter protests, that there will be more people who will stay in the fight for the long haul. We didn't get in this mess overnight. If we get weary in doing well, we're never going to get to the mountaintop."

Toni Morrison's "The Black Experience; A Slow Walk of Trees (as Grandmother Would Say) Hopeless (as Grandfather Would Say)" concludes that, "there is repetition of the grotesque in our history. And there is the miraculous walk of trees. The question is whether our walk is progress or merely movement." This reflects, in some ways Perez's sentiment; and mine as well.

We can reach "liberty and justice for all" but not without listening, understanding, and believing those oppressed and those who do not truly receive liberty and justice now.

Social media has given never-before-seen video footage of over-policing and police brutality. Perez explained that this is another difference between the Black Lives Matter movement and the Civil Rights movement. It's harder for moderates to ignore this issue or blame it on Black people.

OPPORTUNITY OVER ADVERSITY:
BLACK AND MINORITY STUDENTS IN STEM

Tayhana Taylor
World News Editor

Saint Leo University now offers a STEM+ED Teaching Preparation Program. The program caters to students who have a passion for STEM-related areas as well as being an educator. You can find out more about the program by visiting: saintleo.edu/stem-teaching

Pew Research reported that African Americans only make up 9% of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) field; at Saint Leo University, minority students are aspiring to bridge that gap.

Safia Mendez, a freshman at Saint Leo recently made the decision to transition from being a marketing major to pursue a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

"Being a minority in STEM is something that is somewhat new to me, coming from Jamaica, because I've been in spaces where I'm used to people looking like me [...] I definitely feel motivated to bridge the racial gap in the stem industry [...] As I work on putting myself more out there, I hope that I'll be able to encourage others to choose STEM careers and let them know that there is always a seat at the table," said Mendez.

Mendez spoke to the adversities she anticipates facing in the STEM industry as not only a person of African descent, but also the mere fact that she is a woman.

"I'll definitely face adversities in STEM [...] not only as a person of African descent, but also as a young woman [...] we live in a world with very diverse people who come with diverse thoughts and biases. Being aware of this, I am only encouraged more to walk in my power and with my head held high," said Mendez.

Mendez mentioned that the community at Saint Leo has helped foster her love for mathematics, as well as being an anchor of emotional support, and that the faculty members are always willing to offer guidance. While Mendez acknowledges the useful resources for STEM students at Saint Leo , she firmly believes there is always room for improvement.

"I would be delighted to see more STEM workshops for students hosted by members of the alumni who were STEM majors. I think this could offer great guidance to student like myself on how to transition into the world of work when we leave Saint Leo," said Mendez.

Oftentimes, students who are pursuing STEM-related degrees have always had a natural liking for the field; some may describe themselves as being naturally "Tech-Savvy."

Bria Williams, another computer science major, and a freshman at Saint Leo University, described her love for her field of study as one that is filled with passion.

"I have always been good at tech-related things like decrypting, coding, and trying to remove computer viruses [...] My aim, one day, is to become one of the Black women CEOs of a Tech company."

Williams is motivated to use being a minority as an advantage instead of allowing it to be an obstacle.

"I feel intimated, sometimes, because currently, the field has fewer people of color or people that look like me [...] but I also feel confident because I know that, once I put my mind to something, I can always achieve it [...] I don't give up."

Williams has plans to enter the software engineering field or become an ethical hacker for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Organizations hire ethical hackers to conduct authorized hacking to identify the vulnerabilities and weaknesses in the company's security system. This prevents illegal hackers from gaining unauthorized access to the company's files.

According to statistics from the White House, in 2014 it was reported that "members of racial and ethnic minority groups are projected to become the majority of America's population in the next 30 years [...] however, today they account for just 28 percent of America's STEM workers."

Damion Drackett, a biomedical and health sciences major and a freshman at Saint Leo, has plans to become a medical surgeon because of his love and passion for science and human anatomy.

"I have actually never viewed myself as a minority [...] I am not very concerned about the adversities that come with being a Black man in STEM because there are adversities in every career field, even if I chose not to study a STEM-related major. I feel confident and motivated to pursue this area of study; the Saint Leo Community is diverse which makes me feel as though I am a part of a family [...] faculty members are always there to assist me with academic advising, career advice, and extracurriculars. But I would like for Saint Leo to offer technical vocational courses like construction or fashion designing," said Drackett.

Like Drackett, Berkel Anderson a freshman, majoring in biology at Saint Leo also has a strong passion for the field of medicine. Anderson chose to focus her studies on biology because of her desire to help those around her.

"Being a minority in STEM feels empowering to know that some people of color have paved the way for young Black girls like me to be a contribution to one of the most essential studies in today's society."

Anderson also mentioned that she anticipates encountering adversities being a Black woman in the STEM career field, from a global standpoint, but the faculty members at Saint Leo are doing their best to help her achieve her academic and career goals.

The area of cybersecurity is a rapidly growing STEM-related career field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimating that the field will grow 28 percent between 2016 and 2026 (average growth for all jobs is about seven percent).

Nicholae Robinson is a young Black woman at Saint Leo who has found a keen interest in the cybersecurity realm. Robinson, who is also a freshman from Jamaica, found her passion for studying cybersecurity because she connected her love for crime scene investigation shows with her love for technology and computer safety.

"As a minority STEM major, I feel motivated to inspire others like myself to step into the industry, I see it is a privilege rather than a disadvantage," said Robinson.

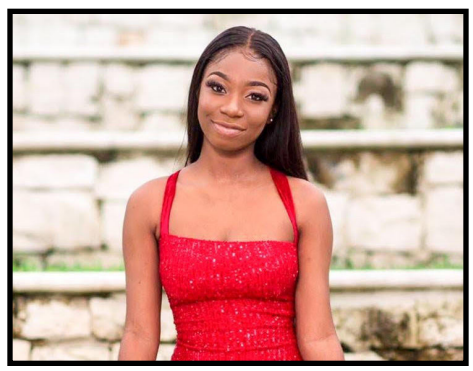
Robinson plans to become a cybersecurity analyst or an ethical hacker, and has even bigger plans to one day develop her own anti-virus software.

As the industry becomes more diverse, the community at Saint Leo continues to equip the students with the knowledge and experience they need to make a positive impact in STEM.

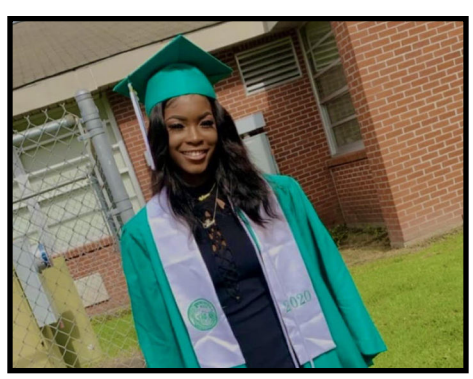
Safia Mendez was known in high school for solving math problems quickly. Mendez fell in love again with the subject once she started college at Saint Leo University.

According to Drackett the STEM program at Saint Leo University is giving him a chance to explore areas that are both related and unrelated to his major. The liberal arts experience at Saint Leo gives students a holistic learning experience regardless of their major.

Nicholae Robinson anticipates that she will face gender disparities in the STEM field rather than racial disparities in the workplace because it is a male-dominated area.



Berkel Anderson has future plans to become a dermatologist and create her own skincare line. Studying a STEM-related major has helped her become more confident in the skin she is in.



Bria Williams is known in her family as a tech genius because she is always ready to fix their computers and solve any of their tech-related problems.

According to the King Center, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. went to jail 29 times, mostly for acts of civil disobedience and on trumped-up charges. Here is where he wrote one of his famous work of literature, "Letter from Birmingham Jail." (Photo Credit: Charles Moore)

LESSER KNOWN WORKS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Miurel Zamora
Contributing Writer

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an African American protester, a leader of the civil rights movement in the 1950s, and an American hero. Some of his best known works include the "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered at the March on Washington in 1963, and the "Letter from Birmingham Jail," a letter written in protest of unjust laws. However, King has written other pieces of literature that may be less known, but are no less impactful.

According to the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute, on March 25, 1965, King made a speech in front of the state capital of Alabama titled "Our God is Marching On." The speech was given as they concluded the three day Civil Rights protest known as the Selma March.

The Selma March—as explained by the Memphis Teacher Residency—emphasized the right to vote, which was being denied to African Americans throughout the South.

In this speech, King encourages people to keep fighting with an encouraging call to action, "I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth crushed to earth will rise again. How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever. How long? Not long, because you shall reap what you sow. How long? Not long."

As stated by the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute, the Voting Rights Act was passed on Aug. 6, 1965, following the Selma March.

In 1967, poverty, war, and racism had become major problems in the United States. On April 14, King made a speech at Stanford University named "The Other America."

In this speech, King focuses on addressing the economic inequalities of African Americans and making America one united nation, noted the Memphis Teacher Residency.

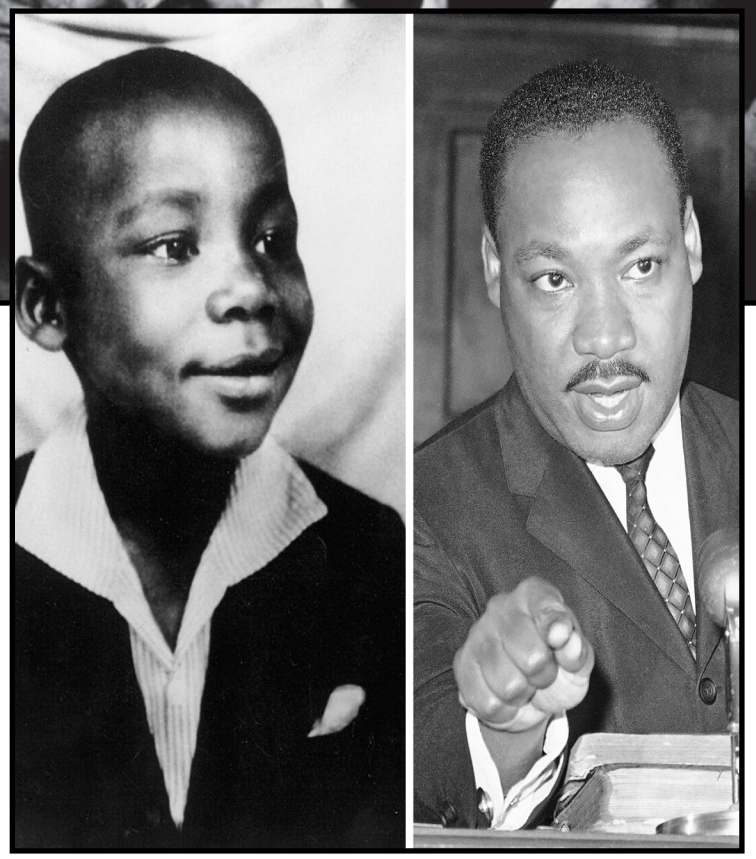
King describes two Americas—the first America is full of opportunities and freedom, while the other America has millions of work-starved people, and poverty reins within black communities.

King states that he is aware of the steps taken against racial inequality, such as allowing black Americans to use public transportation, vote, and go to lunch counters where white Americans also attend. However, at the same time, King explains that there are limited work opportunities and school segregation is a major issue.

King concludes his speech with a hopeful look towards the future: "With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discourse of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to speed up the day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and live together as brothers and sisters, all over this great nation. That will be a great day, that will be great tomorrow."

King's last speech was delivered on April 3, 1968, the eve of his assassination, according to Beacon Broadside. "I've Been to the Mountaintop" is one of his most inspirational and emotional speeches, as he addresses Memphis' most recent conflict with the Sanitation Workers Movement.

The Sanitation Workers Movement, writes History, was started on Feb. 1, 1968, after two African American workers were crushed by garbage compactors. The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) indicated that the workers protested the Sanitation Department in order change these life-threatening conditions, as well as to improve the low wages. King was invited last-minute to Mason Temple in Memphis.



According to "The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.," King first encountered racism as a child when his white friends suddenly refused to play with him. King recognized this betrayal when he became interested in fighting against racism. (Photo Credit: Intellectual Properties Management, Inc., Licensor of The King Estate; AP)

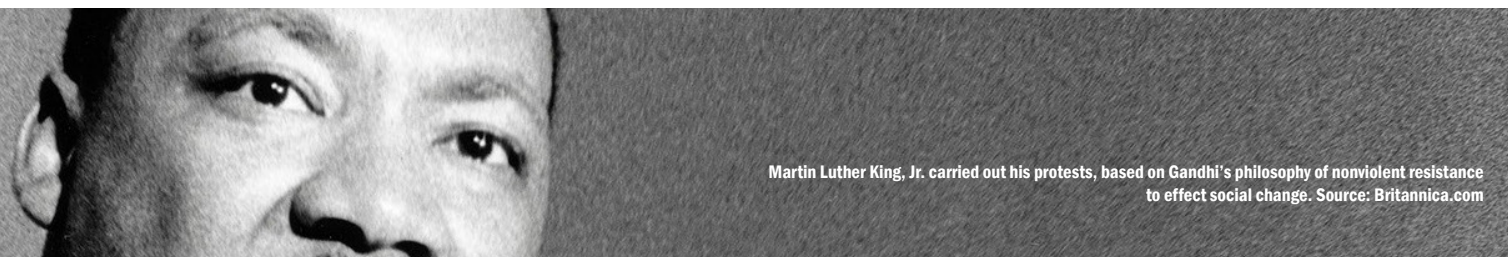
In his speech, King refers to the Old Testament and Promised Land as he brings hope to the people. He encourages everyone to join the fight of their brothers, and emphasizes the importance of staying together to defeat racial injustice.

Towards the end of the speech, King addresses an attempt on his life in 1958, but also emphasizes that he is not afraid to die. "I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!"

Editorial

AFRICAN AMERICAN MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Juan Carvajal
Contributing Writing



Martin Luther King, Jr. carried out his protests, based on Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance to effect social change. Source: Britannica.com

Protest and movements have always been an important part of the U.S. history

. The Bus Boycott of 1955 was one of the most historic examples of civil rights protests This protest was initiated by Rosa Parks' peaceful refusal to a white man's request; it was the turning point that sparked the racial inconformity that had bveen accumulating for years.

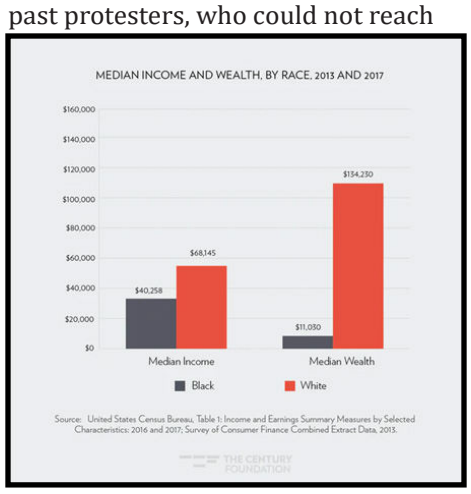
During the Birmingham Campaign of 1963, led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a series of marches and sit-ins were caried out to end racial segregation in public facilities in Birmingham, Alabama. As one of the most violent and pivotal events in Alabama, it revealed the abuses that African American residents were facing.

Though he failed twice in his attempt to escape slavery, Frederick Douglass never lost hope until he was finally free. Source: biography.com

Like past protests, modern ones still fight for the same goal: creating awareness of the rights and dignity of African Americans. The great difference between both, is their cause and consistency.

Dr. Heather Parker, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and History Professor at Saint Leo University, suggested that past protests were the result of consistent racial discrimination and abuse; meanwhile, modern protests are the result of occasional incidents. "The major difference between the past protests and today's protests is that contemporary ones tend to be sparked by a single incident such as the killing of African Americans by police in any part of the country as we saw with George Floyd," said Parker.

Another difference, as reported by National Geographic, is that, unlike past protesters, who could not reach



Though many people do not notice it, the gap in income between African Americans and white people is slowly growing. Source: tcf.org

a bigger audience, modern protesters have the advantage of social media, which allows them to make racism and segregation more evident than it was in the past.

"[…] conversely, protests of the past, such as those led by Martin Luther King, Jr., were in reaction to 100 years of widespread racism in the post-slavery South that led not only to the unpunished killing of African Americans by any white person as well as by the police, but also to racial segregation in the South and the denial of voting rights in the South," said Parker. "As we move further away from the 1960s, and fewer people remain alive who actually remember seeing the Civil Rights Protests on television, fewer people understand the legacy of King's historic movement."

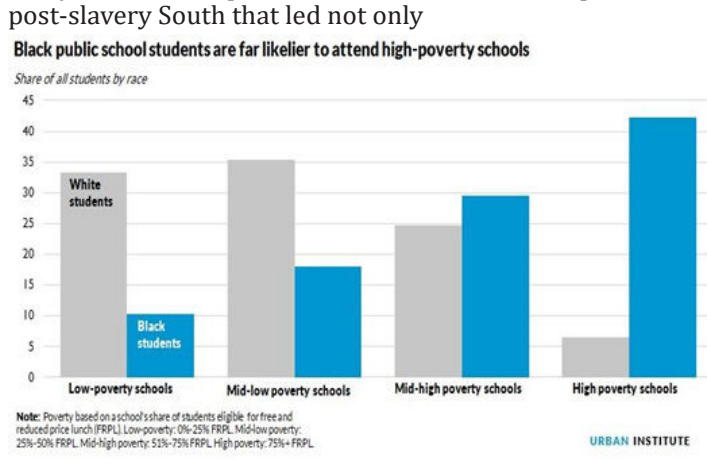
King was not the only leader who fought courageously for the same goal. Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells are historical figures that also shaped the country.

Frederick Douglass is known for his involvement in the abolitionist movement as well as his contributions to the women's right movements. Douglass was born a slave, but he was taught to read by his slave master's wife and later became a freedom fighter.

Unlike Douglass, Wells was not born into slavery, but she faced ridicule and discrimination throughout her career as a journalist, while exposing the abuse that African Americans faced in Memphis, Tennessee. As an activist, she joined the boycott of the World's Columbian Exposition.

According to Parker, "The most important lessons we can learn from Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, and many others, is that their work is not done. The United States has yet to achieve the goals of these early leaders."

Dr. Parker suggests that a reason for the present challenges that African Americans face today, is that great part of the population is unaware of the problems that many low-income African Americans face. This lack of awareness is partly due to segregation.



Accessing education is still one of the biggest challenges for many African Americans. Source: urban.org

"Most Americans probably do not understand why African Americans continue to demand equal treatment and equal opportunity in this country. This happens because most Americans do not witness the struggles that low-income African Americans encounter in daily life. A reason for this is that we still live in a segregated society," said Parker.

Dr. Heather Parker's expertise is in the interethnic religious interaction and the political implications of these relationships in Florida. Source: saintleo.edu

According to Parker, "Several schools remain mostly African American or white, depending upon the region. These schools reflect the composition of American neighborhoods which remain mostly all white or all African American."

In the last decades, segregation has reasonably improved, since, not only educational institutions are less segregated, but businesses as well. Though there is still much work to be done, social media is continually allowing today's protesters to be heard. And, this has resulted in more opportunities for African Americans.

Despite being an orphan at 16 years-old, Ida B. Wells managed to overcome racism and segregation. Source: theguardian.com

Black Contributions TO THE ARTS

By Damion Drackett, Contributing Writer

Imagine having an art show without paintings, a dance show without dancers, or a conversation without speaking—something would just not be right. That is how it would be if one were to try and describe the arts without the contributions of the Black community.

Looking back, one can see just how much the Black community has impacted lives across the world.

The story of Black contributions to music reaches way back. For example, the musical styles of Jazz and Blues originated in the 19th and early 20th centuries in New Orleans, Louisiana, from the African American community. These early musical artists pulled from traditional African songs and chants to create the distinct sounds of Jazz and Blues. These styles continue to capture the ears of individuals, and are now being used to enhance the music of the modern age.

Afrobeat, pioneered by Fela Kuti from Nigeria, is another musical style with African roots. Afrobeat is created by using a combination of different styles such as drumming, funk, and traditional music to get the veins and arteries in one's body to feel the rhythm.
These styles need to be loved and appreciated for what they have done. Imagine not having these as a part of the stories that are passed on to the younger generations: that would prevent them from truly understanding the craft made.

These musical elements that were created are now the platform, or basis, for much of the music being created currently, as it creates a certain feeling, energy and sensation.

Geossica Madden, a freshman studying Marketing at Saint Leo University, mentioned that Beyonce's performances at Coachella were unforgettable.

This was an immaculate time in the music industry, as Beyonce did not only showcase her singing skills, but created a scene, a story, and an impact that have led many to write it down in history.

Other Black musical artists—such as Whitney Houston, Prince, Rihanna, Missy Elliot, Jackson 5, and many more—have all made the music industry a joy to be a part of.
Another craft that the Black community has dominated is that of dancing.

"Being a dancer, one should not only show who they are in their facial expressions, but also in their body," said Kimesha Norris, advisor of the GoldRush Dance Team at Saint Leo and Assistant Director of Residence Life for Housing.

Black History Month is more than just celebrating the color, it is about the rhythm that Fela Kuti has helped us to develop for the music industry.
Photo by Tom Beetz (CC BY 2.0) - Edited

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Graphics by: **Christian Silva,** *Creative Director*

Photo Credit: SIGMA - Vimeo: Fenty Beauty by Rihanna

Photo Credit: Sassy - Vimeo: The Lion King European Premiere

Photo Credit: Will Smith by Gage Skidmore

Taraji P. Hensen is one such actress that has dominated the Black film community, by showing the strengths and power of Black people over the years.

The dance and theatre industries have always created meaningful expressions through impactful choreography. In dance, the Black community created different beats with their body, drawing from folklore dances and culture styles.

The foundation genres of dances evolved, and have been used and turned into many styles, including contemporary and afrobeat.
One outstanding artist was Alvin Ailey, an African American that started his all-Black dance and theatre school, where he used his troubles and tribulation from the past as inspiration for the movement of his dancers. Ailey's story is powerful, as he grew up struggling, but has now become successful and an idol for many young and upcoming dancers.

"The dance world is getting really competitive and diverse, but I can never forget Step Afrika or the powerful dance group The Royal Family," said Xauskya Emmanuel, a senior majoring in criminal justice and captain of the GoldRush dance team. "They have been dominating the hip-hop world, creating new styles and making people want to dance like them, which is so impactful to this generation."

The film industry is another artistic craft that has been extensively contributed to by the black community.

Dorothy Dandridge was the first black actress nominated for an Academy Award for her role in "Carmen Jones." r History also remembers dominating Black actors such as Morgan Freeman, Danny Glover, Samuel L. Jackson, Ice Cube, Eddie Murphy, Denzel Washington, and Will Smith. Their work has impacted the lives of many individuals.

It has not only been actors and actresses, but storytellers as well who have brought films to life—such as in the horror film "Antebellum," starring Janelle Monae. Historical films, such as "Hidden Figures," which starred Taraji P. Hensen, have also helped others to understand how the black community has been fighting for what is right and what they have worked for in society.

The Black community has not only dominated in the areas of music, dance, and film, but has also placed an impact on society with each of their stories and helped make the world a better place. They have shown the world their hard work and dedication, and that color is powerful and impactful.

Photo Credit: Glenn Francis, www.PacificProDigital.com

It is said that dance is more than just moves; Alvin Ailey has created a pathway for young black people to follow.

SPORTS AND PROTESTING, A SHORT HISTORY

Seahawks defensive Michael Bennett said to Seattle times about Kaepernick's take a knee movement, “For people to really see social injustices, there must be someone from the other side of the race who recognizes the problem." (Photo from seattletimes.com)

Mariana Navarrete
Contributing Writer

Throughout history, professional athletes have used their power and platform to advocate for various social causes. It does not matter if their protests, during their matches, games, or competitions, are controversial and prevent them from winning; their passion for protesting for injustice goes above all.

1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany

Jesse Owens was the first black African American to win four gold medals in track and field at the Olympics in Berlin 1936. Owens, with other African American athletes, defied the propaganda the Nazi regime wanted to impose during the Olympics about Aryan superiority. Owen's gold medals were a symbol of racial equality.

Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali was the first boxer to win the world heavyweight championship on three separate occasions; he successfully defended this title 19 times.

Ali was banned from boxing by the U.S. authorities after he refused to join the U.S. Army because he opposed the Vietnam War.

"My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people – some poor, hungry people in the mud – for big powerful America," Ali said.

Ali spoke out repeatedly against racism and joined the radical black civil rights movement, the Nation of Islam. He later campaigned against Islamophobia in the U.S. following the 9/11 attacks.

1968 Olympics

African American runners Tommie Smith and John Carlos won gold and bronze at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. As they stood on the winning podium, they rose a single gloved fist as the national anthem played. Smith and Carlos proceed to take off their shoes to gesture Black poverty and wore beads symbolizing U.S. lynching history. Both were booed in the event and suspended from the U.S. track and field.

Smith's and Carlos' gestures were motivated by the "Olympic Project for Human rights" led by activist Harry Edwards. It advocated an Olympic boycott by Black athletes to spread awareness of systematic racism and injustice against black athletes in the sports industry.

Skipping the Indian Wells tournament cost the Williams at least $1 million in prize money every year. (Photo from ESPN)

The Williams Sisters in the Tennis Court

Serena Williams and Venus Williams boycotted the tennis championship Indian Wells for 14 years due to allegations of racism in 2001.

"The undercurrent of racism was painful, confusing, and unfair. In a game I loved

SPORTS AND PROTESTING, A SHORT HISTORY

with all my heart, at one of my most cherished tournaments, I suddenly felt unwelcome, alone, and afraid." Serena Williams wrote in TIME.

Boycotting the game hurt the Williams' professional rankings since the Indian Wells tournament is one of four required competitions for the World Tennis Association players. The boycott put tennis culture's racism in the media spotlight every year, as tennis-watchers wondered whether the sisters would ever return.

Naomi Osaka boycotts WTA.

Two-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka withdrew from Western & Southern Open in protest for racial justice ahead of next month's U.S. Open, leading the tournament to pause indefinitely.

"As a Black woman, I feel as though there are much more important matters at hand that need immediate attention, rather than watching me play tennis." Japanese tennis star, Osaka, said in a statement posted on Twitter.

Osaka has since worn Black Lives Matter shirts and facemasks during her matches and is an active advocate in social media towards racism against Black people and Asians in the United States and worldwide.

Black Lives Matter & NFL

The originator of the "take a knee" protest is ex-NFL star Colin Kaepernick. He first knelt during the U.S. national anthem in the summer of 2016 to protest police violence against African Americans. Former President Donald Trump voiced his outrage over the protest, and Kaepernick couldn't find another team after his 49ers release.

The "take a knee" protest evolved like a domino effect to other football teams and even other sports. NFL stars Patrick Mahomes, Saquon Barkley, Michael Thomas, and other dozens of players called on the league to condemn racism through videos on social media during the weeks after George Floyd's murder.

Black Lives Matter has gained so much importance in the NFL that it is currently pledged to contribute to the cause, as stated on their communications website.

"The NFL is growing our social justice efforts through a 10-year total $250 million fund to combat systemic racism and support the battle against the ongoing and historical injustices faced by African-Americans."

Black Lives Matter at the NBA The NBA has demonstrated solidarity with the "Black Lives Matter" movement as well. In the restart of the NBA season in 2020, every player outside of a few exceptions kneeled during the national anthem and all wore "Black Lives Matters" shirts in the wake of Floyd and Breonna Taylor's deaths.

The "take a knee" movement with the Black Lives Matter protests made the NBA players vocal in their social justice calls.

Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James points to the sky in the majority of his games in recognition of the victims of police brutality.

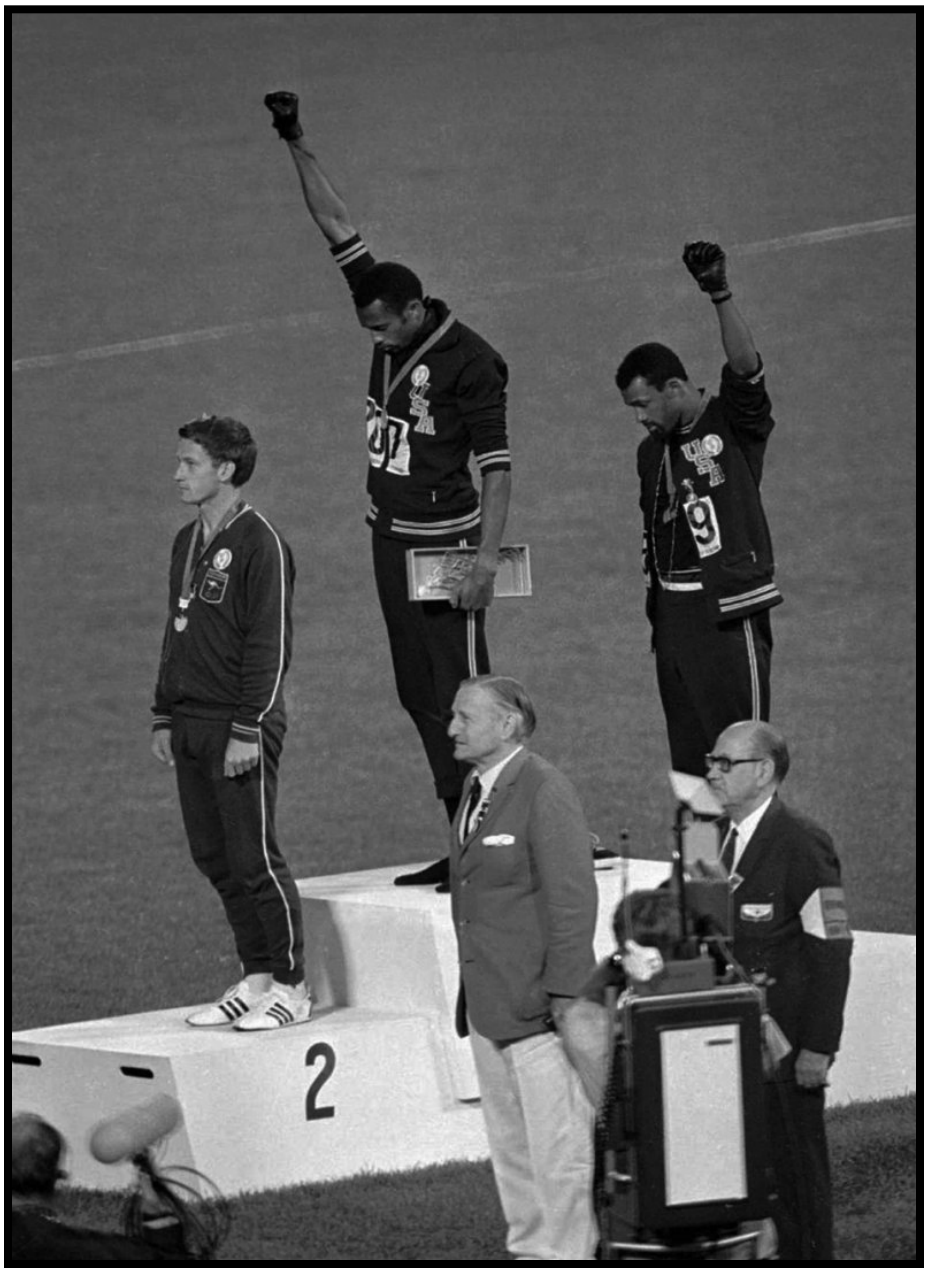
"I hope we made Kaep proud," James said to CNN. "I hope we continue to make Kaep proud. Every single day I hope I make him proud of how I live my life, not only out on a basketball floor but off the floor."

Black Lives Matter in Soccer Leagues

In the first game of The U.S. Women national soccer team in November 2020, they wore Black Lives Matter jackets to "affirm human decency," as they posted on Twitter. "We collectively acknowledge injustice, as that is the first step in working towards correcting it."

The Bundesliga has also awoken to embrace the Black Lives Matter movement. The German team Bayern Munich created a campaign against racism using t-shirts that said "Reds against racism."

It's clear that sports are a platform for athletes to speak out, spread awareness, boycott and protest against social and racial injustice. As Nicole Anyomi from the Essen professional soccer team said after celebrating a goal with a take-a-knee pose, "We have to be active and raise our voice and speak out. If something happens, you can't just stand by, look on and say nothing.



Medal winners of track and field Tommie Smith and John Carlos sought out active forms of protests and advocated for racial pride, Black nationalism, and dramatic action. (Photo from osu.edu)

SEVEN FUN AND COVID-SAFE DATES

Daniela Mercades
Contributing Writer

Nowadays, there is nothing more common than COVID-19 or the fact that it has affected our daily lives and activities. Even the way we date has changed, since meeting new people without COVID-19 measures is a risk.

However, relationships and extra-curricular activities are still essential in our lives and they improve our mental health.
With the pandemic having been present for a year now, we must start looking for solutions to regain our happy and ''normal'' lives. Relationships have become stronger, for some couples who spent quarantine together, but others have taken different paths. Some couples have had to go through long-distance separations due to the shutdowns of cities and countries, which has been a very difficult experience for them.

Whether you and your partner have been trying to stay connected through the pandemic, or whether you just fell in love with someone, it is important to both strengthen your relationship and maintain your health and safety. Here are some date ideas that you can try with your significant other, or even with your friends.
Being outdoors is generally safer because the airborne coronavirus will not get locked up in a room. One outdoor date idea is to go to a bike trail. Riding along a bike trail is a fun and healthy activity to do with your significant other, and there are some places near Saint Leo University that offer this kind of experience.
The Hardy Trail, for example, is less than 15 minutes away from University Campus and it is a great place to bike and explore the local area.

Another outdoor idea, for more adventurous couples, is horseback trail riding. There is a place called Choyce LLC, only about five minutes away from Saint Leo, where you can go with your date and have a fun time riding horses.

Another adventurous, outdoor activity for couples is to go camping. Camping can be done at the beach or in a more forested area, where there is plenty of room for social distancing.

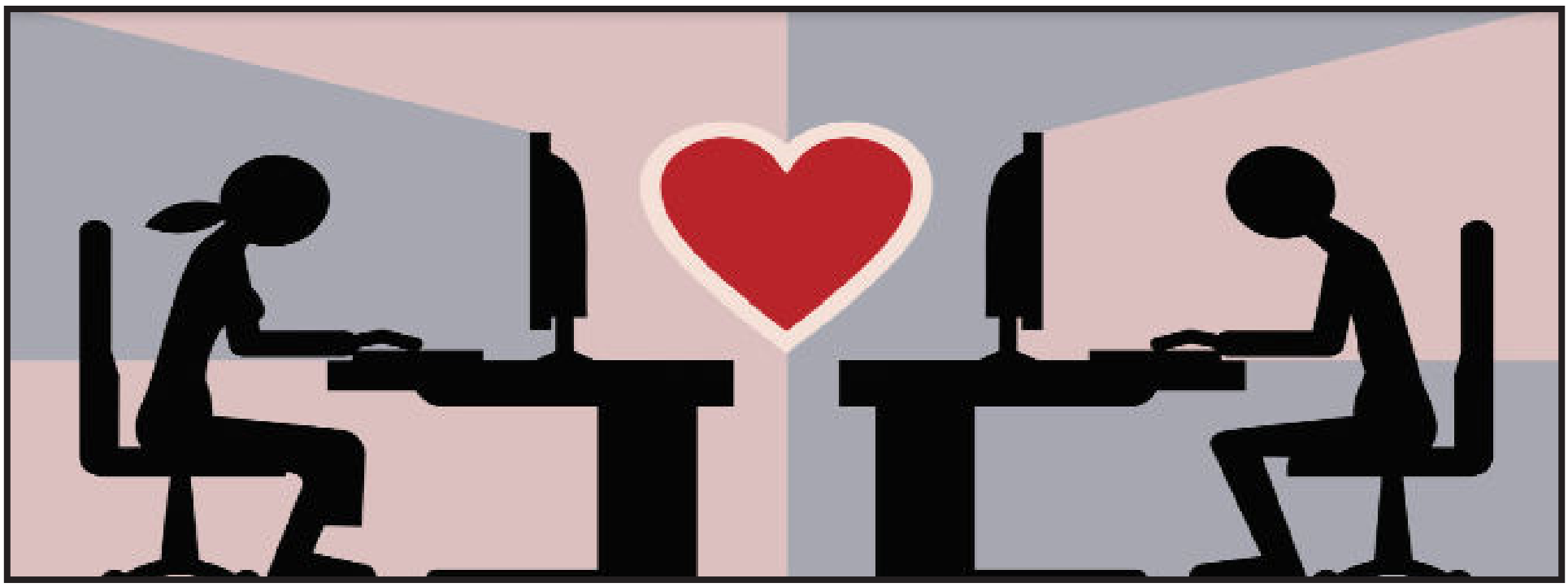
Busch Gardens Tampa is also a place that ensures that you are going to have fun on a date. The majority of attractions, including the wild animal enclosures, at this local amusement park are located outdoors, and social-distanced spacing is practiced in lines and on roller coasters. Just be sure to wear your mask correctly, use hand sanitizer frequently, and refrain from touching your face without cleaning your hands first.
For more serene couples, a romantic dinner at home is a nice idea. You can set a spot in your house or room, decorate it with lights and flowers, and either order food or cook a meal together. Do not forget to play some music to set the mood!

If you like the idea of having a romantic meal with your significant other, but staying at home sounds boring, you can also organize a picnic. Bring a tablecloth or blanket, something to eat and drink, and head to Clearwater or another local beach. To make it more aesthetically pleasing, you can include a nice bottle of a favorite drink, flowers, and decorated fruits.

Lastly, Crystal Lagoon is a fun place to spend the day and get a nice suntan. It is an artificial beach that is less than 30 minutes away from Saint Leo and has kayaks, waterslides, and other fun water activities.

There are activities for all kinds of couples—feel free to adjust these ideas to your own preferences so that your date will be more special and comfortable for you and your better half.

Going horseback riding at Choyce LLC. is the perfect adventure for an animal-loving couple.



HOW TO MEET NEW PEOPLE WHILE STAYING SAFE

Mariana Navarrete
Contributing Writer

We used to see dating as part of our lives until, all of a sudden, dating became one of the many things affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Humans, as social creatures, crave social interaction. Instead of breaking quarantines or exposing people to the virus, consider these ways to start dating, which have a low risk of getting or spreading COVID-19.

Have a Remote First Meeting

Though a video call platform might seem a bit awkward and not very romantic, in the beginning a virtual conference can offer an excellent way to establish a safe connection to later meet in person. Speaking remotely will also allow the couple to quickly find out whether meeting up in person is on the table. Additionally, remote meetings will force both to take the effort and time to get to know the other person.

Ask Questions before Meeting in Person

Before meeting in person, get a sense of your date's biosecurity precautions. For example, if one person believes the pandemic is a hoax and the other person does not, it is probably a sign to take some steps backward. It is also important for a couple to discuss beforehand if they are both symptom-free and any COVID-19 tests they have taken.

Marie Helweg-Larsen, a psychology professor at Dickinson College, confirms we are biased towards people we choose to go out with. We tend to underestimate our own risk, and "we want people we know and love to share our umbrella of invulnerability."

Set Rules about what both should Expect in the Date

Additionally, the couple should talk about each person's comfort level. One person might only feel safe by standing six feet apart during the date, while the other person might want to hug or hold hands. It is essential that both are on the same page before going out.

Date setting

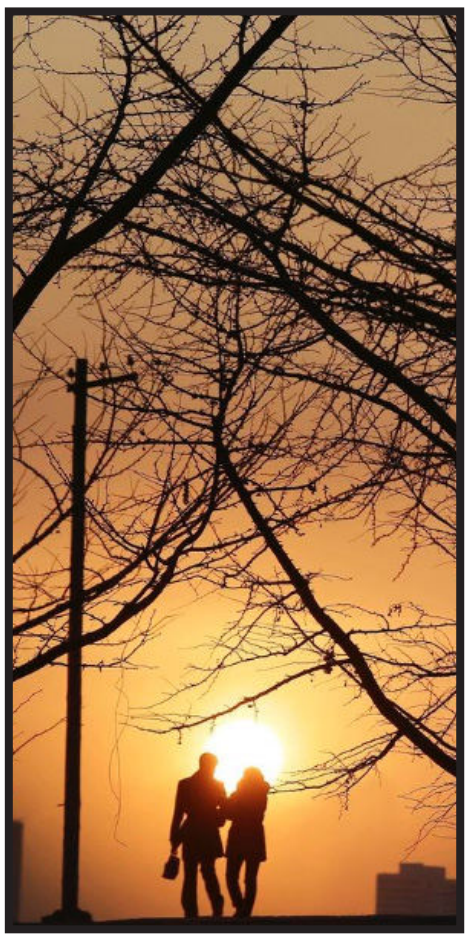
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is less risk of contracting COVID-19 in an outdoor setting, while using face coverings and practicing social distancing. However, this does not mean to choose a lonely alleyway to meet! Pick a venue that is not crowded and has enough space to social distance. Instead of choosing a busy indoor restaurant for a date, find one with outdoor tables or a natural park to go for a walk. Prioritize outdoor spaces and the ability for movement.

Social Bubble

If you decide to keep hanging out together, a low-risk option for couples is to create a social bubble. Melissa Hawkins, an epidemiologist at American University, said to ABC News, "Social bubbles are a middle-ground approach that expands social interaction and contains risk by limiting exposure."

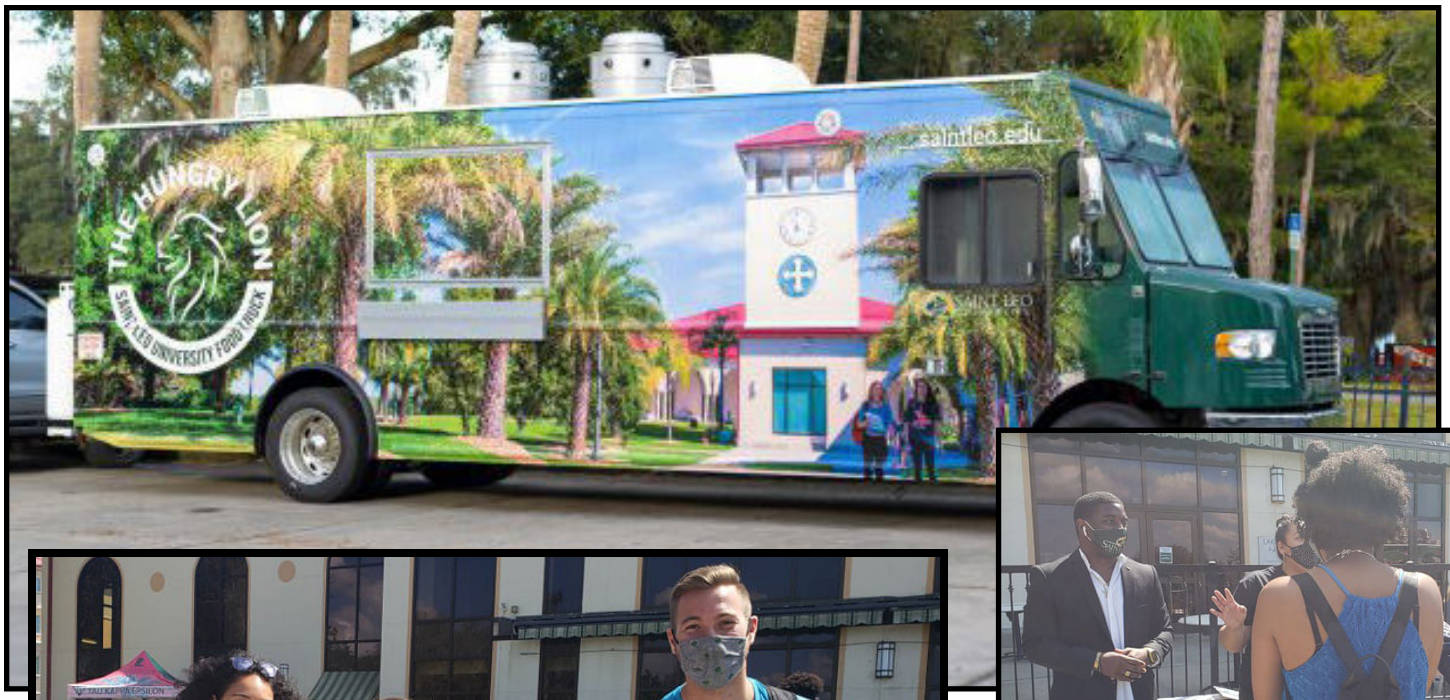
A social bubble is where the couple agrees to limit closer contacts to only the people within the social bubble. The bubble should be small enough for this to be feasible: a bubble of 100 friends will not work. Everyone participating in the bubble must agree to maintain strict infection prevention, especially when each one goes outside.

After agreeing to enter into a bubble contract, everyone must maintain the social bubble as long as they intend to stay in physical contact without masks or social distancing. The best way for the social bubble to work is when everyone keeps track of social behaviors. A couple should openly talk about what each person is doing to stay safe and whether both people are still on the same page. After all, good communication is vital in any relationship.



Psychology Today mentions that human beings have an innate desire to connect to others, and stressful circumstances, such as this pandemic, enhances this universal need.

THE HUNGRY LION: FOOD TRUCK OPENING DAY



Photo's by Haley Robinson - Editor in Chief

Lisa Ogueke (Left) and Quiwanaki 'Q' Ramsey (Right) showing off the t-shirts given away at today's event.

Ryn Williams
Social Media Manager

Have you checked out Saint Leo University's newest mobile food option? The Hungry Lion is now open! Food will be served at lunch time Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

The unveiling started with a bang. There was a huge celebration complete with a DJ, a performance by the Gold Rush Dancers, t-shirts, and prizes, along with samples of their new Mac Daddy Hernandez pizza and their Big Senese sandwiches.

"[The Mac Daddy Hernandez] is really good, I'm quite surprised!" Maiya Smith, a Saint Leo student, loved the mac-and-cheese pizza. "I'm pretty satisfied."

Students were excited to celebrate and meet new people.

"Being in a big group of people just makes me feel normal again," said Khamille Labbe, a Student Ambassador majoring in Professional Writing. "Everyone's wearing a mask here, so I do feel safe with everything happening. I like it a lot."

The Hungry Lion will be rotating menu names and items, and the operators plan to station the truck at events as an attraction.

Dr. Jen Shaw, vice president of Student Affairs, explained, "The Hungry Lion will provide fresh, delicious food 'on the go' in a variety of locations both on- and off-campus."

Quiwanaki 'Q' Ramsey, the current Vice President of Operations is proud to have Saint Leo be represented.

"I think it's going to be a great thing to have—to have it travel around both on or off campus and it's a great way to say, 'Hey, that's Saint Leo, that's my school!'"

Lisa Ogueke, current SGU candidate, can't wait to try new and diverse menu options.

"I'm here for the Chicken Pineapple; I'm very much a pineapple-on-pizza sort of person."

When asked if they wanted to see other items on the menu some great options were suggested.

"Personally, I'd say Chinese food – I love Chinese Food, so that's my personal wish!", said 'Q'.

Lisa had drinks on the brain.

"I hope they bring in smoothies, I'm a big smoothie person…I'm always looking for a coffee substitute."

Pricing of the rotating menu are from $3 to $10, reflecting the pricing of FUZ the Asian-Lantin fusion that replaced the Lions Lair this past year. Since FUZ's opening there has been some stipulation from students regarding the prices being higher than the Lions Lair, but Lisa had an inspired take.

"It's a nice a nice $6 to $7 dollar for most things…I don't feel bad about the prices because I know that we are creating more jobs on campus."

Additionally, The Hungry Lion does not accept Bonus Bucks, but 'Q' explained he'd like to see that be implemented in the future, so students with the Unlimited Meal Plan can have more options to spend the extra $100.

IN MEMORIAM OF THE

500,000+

COVID-19

U.S DEATHS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Photo by morrisonbrett from www.flickr.com (CC BY 2.0) - Edited